

COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.

"Enlightened minds and virtuous manners lead to the gates of glory."

VOL. I. NEW-RICHMOND, FEBRUARY 11, 1825. NO. 23.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY A. C. & J. HERRON, AT \$1 50
CTS. PER ANNUM, PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

most confusion; those who attempted to escape from the fort were instantly cut to pieces by the troops without. The enemy finding themselves thus hemmed in, and attacked on all sides, in the most abject terms begged for quarters, which was denied them by the English. A great proportion of the troops being now mounted on the walls of the fort, they had nothing to do but load and fire, the enemy being penned up and huddled together in such a manner, that there was scarcely a shot lost. This bloody contest was of near six hours continuance, when the English perceiving the fort with nought but dead, or such as were mortally wounded of the enemy, closed the bloody conflict.

The scene of action at this instant was indeed such as could not fail to shock the stoutest hearted! The huge logs of which the fort was constructed, were completely crimsoned with the blood of the enemy, while the surrounding woods resounded with the dying groans of the wounded. The number of slain of the enemy in this severe engagement, could not be ascertained, it was however, immense; of 4000 which the fort was supposed to contain at the commencement of the action, not 200 escaped! Among whom unfortunately was the treacherous Philip.

After the close of this desperate action, the troops (having destroyed all in their power) left the en-

emie's ground, and carrying about 300 wounded men, marched back to the distance of sixteen miles to head quarters; the night proved cold and stormy, the snow fell deep, and it was not to midnight or after that the troops were enabled to reach their place of destination. Many of the wounded, who probably otherwise might have recovered, perished with the cold and inconvenience of a march so fatiguing.

Although the destruction of so great a number of the enemy was considered of the greatest importance to the English, yet it proved a conquest dearly bought; it was obtained at the expense of the lives of not only a great number of privates, but a great proportion of their most valuable officers; among whom were Captains Davenport, Gardner, Johnson, Siely, and Marshall. On enumerating their number of slain and wounded, it was found as follows:—

<i>Of the Companies commanded by</i>		
Captains	killed, wounded.	
Mosely,	10	40
Oliver,	20	48
Gardner,	11	32
Johnson,	18	38
Davenport,	15	19
Gallop,	28	43
Siely,	32	50
Watts,	19	33
Mason,	40	50
Marshall,	25	37
Goram,	30	41
Sachem Oneco,	51	82
Total	299	513

The courage displayed during the action by every part of the army—the invincible heroism of the officers—the firmness and resolution of the soldiers, when they saw their captains falling before them, and the hardships endured before and after the engagement, are hardly credible, and rarely find a parallel in ancient or modern ages! The cold (the day preceeding the action) was extreme, and in the night of which the snow fell so deep as to render it extremely difficult for the army to move the day succeeding; four hundred of the soldiers were so completely frozen as to be unfit for duty! The Connecticut troops were the most disabled, having endured a tedious march without halting from Stonington to the place of public rendezvous; they sustained too a much greater loss in the action, in proportion to their numbers, than the troops of other colonies. The bold and intrepid Captain Mason, (who received a fatal wound in the action, of which he died in about three months after) was the first after the Mohegans to mount the walls of the fort, nor did the troops under his command fail to follow the noble example.

The loss of the troops from Connecticut was so great that Major Treat conceived it absolutely necessary to return immediately home; such of the wounded as were not able to travel were put on board a vessel and conveyed to Stonington. The troops on their return, killed and captured about 30 of the enemy.

The Massachusetts and Plymouth forces kept the field the greater part of the winter. They ranged the country, took a number of prisoners, destroyed about 300

wigwams, but achieved nothing brilliant or decisive.

The Nipnet and Narraganset tribes being by the late action nearly exterminated, the few that survived, by the direction of Philip, fled in small parties to different parts of the country, improving every opportunity that presented to revenge the untimely fate of their brethren. On the 10th February, 1678, about 100 of them surprised the inhabitants of Lancaster, (Mass.) a part of whom, as a place of greater safety, had the day previous, resorted to the dwelling of the Rev. Mr. Rowland; this however, being constructed of dry logs, was set fire to by the Indians, which the unfortunate English within, being unable to extinguish, they fell victims to the devouring flames. On the 21st the enemy attacked the inhabitants of Medfield, 32 of whom they killed, and the remainder made captives.

On the 3d March, the Indians still continuing their depredations, two companies of cavalry, under the command of Captain Pierce, and Captain Watkins, were ordered out for the purpose of affording protection to the defenceless inhabitants of towns most exposed to their incursions; on the 5th they marched to Pautuxet, near which there were a considerable body of Indians encamped, whom, on the morning of the 6th, they fell in with and attacked. The enemy at first appeared but few in number, but these were only employed to decoy the English, who on a sudden found themselves surrounded by near 500 Indians, who, with their tomahawks and scalping knives, rushing furiously upon them, threatened them with instant destruction! The English

now acting upon the defensive, although surrounded by five times their number, fought with usual spirit, and were resolved to sell their lives at as dear a rate as possible; they were very soon, however compelled to yield to the superior force of their savage enemies; but five escaped! This victory, though of considerable importance to the savages, cost them a number of their bravest warriors, 93 of whom were the succeeding day found dead upon the field of action. There were in this engagement about 20 friendly Indians with the English, who fought like desperadoes, one of them observing Captain Pierce unable to stand, in consequence of the many wounds he had received, for nearly two hours bravely defended him; when perceiving his own imminent danger, and that he could afford the captain no further assistance, by blacking his face as the enemy had done, escaped unnoticed.

On the 25 March, a party of Indians attacked and burnt the towns of Weymouth and Warwick, killing a great number of the inhabitants. On the 10th April following they pillaged and burnt Rehoboth and Providence.

On the 1st May, a company of English and 150 Mohegans, under the command of Captain George Dennison, were sent in pursuit of a body of the enemy commanded by the son of Miantinomi; on the 8th they met with and attacked them near Groten. The Indians, apparently determined on victory or death, displayed an unusual degree of courage, but the English and Mohegans proved too strong for them, who, after destroying the greater part with their muskets and tomahawks, drove the remainder into a neigh-

boring river, where they soon perished.

On the 23d, Cononchet, Sachem of the few scattered remains of the Narragansets, proposed to his Council that the lands bordering on Connecticut river, not inhabited by the English, should be by them planted with corn, for their future subsistence; which being approved of by the latter, 200 of the Narragansets were despatched for this purpose. The Governor, being apprised of their intentions, despatched three companies of cavalry to intercept them; about 100 of the Mohegans, under the command of Oneco, accompanied the English. The enemy were commanded by Cononchet in person, who first proceeded to Seconk to procure seed corn; it was in the neighborhood of this place that they were first met with and engaged by the English and Mohegans; the enemy with becoming bravery, for a long time withstood the attack, but being but poorly provided with weapons, they were at length overpowered and compelled to yield to the superior power of their enemies. In the midst of the action Cononchet fearful of the issue, deserted his men and attempted to seek shelter in a neighboring wood, but being recognized by the Mohegans, they pursued him.—Cononchet, perceiving himself nearly overtaken by his pursuers, to facilitate his flight first threw away his blanket, and then his silver laced coat (with which he had been presented by the English a few weeks previous) but finding that he could not escape from his pursuers by flight, he plunged into a river, where he was even followed by half a dozen resolute Mohegans, who, laying hold of him

forced him under water and there held him until drowned. The loss of the English and Mohegans in this engagement, was 12 killed and 21 wounded; that of the enemy was 43 killed and about 80 wounded.

The inhabitants of New-London, Norwick and Stonington, having frequently discovered a number of the enemy lurking about in small bodies in the adjacent woods, by joint-agreement voluntarily enlisted themselves (to the number of 300) under the command of Major Palmer, and Captains Dennison and Avery, who, with the assistance of the Mohegans and a few friendly Narragansets, in three expeditions destroyed near 1000 of the enemy.

On the 8th June the Indians assaulted and burnt Bridgewater, a small settlement in the colony of Massachusetts; forty of its inhabitants fell victims to savage barbarity.

The Governor and Council of Massachusetts colony, aware of the danger to which many of the inland settlements were exposed by frequent incursions of the enemy, and finding it extremely difficult to raise a sufficient force to oppose them in the many parts to which the fragments of the broken tribes had resorted, adopted the policy of sending among them, as spies, such Indians as were friendly and could be depended on; which plan had its desired effect. These Indians represented the force of the English much greater than it really was, and warning the enemy of danger, which did not at that time exist, deterred them from acting in many instances on the offensive—One of the friendly Indians returning to Boston on

the 10th July, reported as follows: that a large number of Indians were embodied in a wood near Lancaster, which village they intended to attack and burn in a few days, that they had been encouraged to continue the war with the English by *Frenchmen*, from the great lake, who had supplied them with fire arms and ammunition!

On the receipt of this important information, the Governor despatched three companies of cavalry, under the command of Major Savage, for the defence of Lancaster, who unfortunately, by mistaking the road, fell into an ambush of about 350 Indians, by whom they were instantly surrounded. The English exhibited great presence of mind, and repelled the attack of the enemy in a very heroic manner; the savages being, however, well provided with fire arms, soon gained a complete victory over the English, whose loss in this unfortunate engagement was fifty-four! The number of killed and wounded of the enemy could not be ascertained, as they remained masters of the field of action.

—o—o—

History.

The next step was to publish a declaration of their rights. These they summed up in the rights belonging to Englishmen; and particularly insisted, that as their distance rendered it impossible for them to be represented in the British parliament, their provincial assemblies, with the governor appointed by the king, constituted the only legislative power within each province. They would, however, consent to such acts of parliament, as were evidently

calculated merely for the regulation of commerce, and securing for the parent state the benefits of the American trade; but would never allow that they could impose any tax on the colonies, for the purpose of raising a revenue, without their consent. They proceeded to reprobate the intention of each of the new acts of parliament; and insisted on all the rights they had enumerated, as being unalienable; and what none could deprive them of. The Canada act they particularly pointed out as being extremely inimical to the colonies, by whose assistance it had been conquered; and they termed it, "An act for establishing the Roman Catholic religion in Canada, abolishing the equitable system of English laws, and establishing a tyranny there."

They further declared in favour of a non-importation and non-consumption of British goods, until the acts were repealed, by which duties were laid upon tea, coffee, wine sugar, and molasses imported into America, as well as the Boston Port-act, and the three others passed in the preceding session of Parliament.

The new regulations against the importation and consumption of British commodities, were then drawn up with great solemnity; and they concluded with returning the warmest thanks, to those members of Parliament, who had, with so much zeal, but without success opposed the obnoxious acts of Parliament.

Their next proceedings were to draw up a petition to the king, an address to the British nation, and another to the colonies, all of which being in the usual strain of American language, adopted for some time past, that a repeti-

tion is altogether unnecessary. It is sufficient to say, they were executed in a masterly manner, both with respect to style and composition, and ought to have impressed the people of England with more favourable sentiments of the Americans, than they were at that time willing to entertain.

All this time the disposition of the people had corresponded with the warmest wishes of congress. The first of June had been kept as a fast, not only throughout Virginia, where it was first proposed, but through the whole continent. Contributions for the relief of the inhabitants of Boston were recommended and raised throughout the country. Even those who were most likely to derive the greatest advantages from the Port-bill, with a generosity unequalled, refused to enrich themselves at the expence of their suffering neighbors. The inhabitants of Marblehead, who were among the number, though situated in the neighborhood of Boston and most likely to receive benefit from the stoppage of their trade, did not attempt to avail themselves of it, but so far from it, that they generously offered the use of their harbour, wharves, and stores, rent free.

In the meantime, the British forces at Boston were continually augmenting in number, which greatly increased the general jealousy and disaffection; the country people were ready to rise at a moment's warning, and the experiment was tried by giving a false alarm, that the communication was to be cut off between the town and country, in order to reduce the former by famine to a compliance with the acts of parliament. On this intelligence, the country people assembled in great

numbers, and could not be satisfied, till they had sent messengers into the city, to inquire into the truth of the report. These messengers were enjoined to inform the people in Boston, that if they should be so pusillanimous as to make a surrender of the liberties, the province would not think itself bound by such examples; and that Britain, by breaking their original charter, had annulled the contract subsisting between them and left them to act as they thought proper.

The people in every other respect manifested their inflexible determination to adhere to the plan they had so long followed. The new counsellors and judges were obliged to resign their offices, in order to preserve their lives and properties from the fury of the multitude. In some places they shut up the avenues to the court houses; and when required to make way for the judges, replied, that they knew of none but such as were appointed by the ancient usage and custom of the province.

They manifested, in every place the most ardent desire of learning the art of war; and every one who could bear arms, was most assiduous in procuring them, and learning the military exercise. Matters at last proceeded to such a height, that general Gage thought proper to fortify the neck of land which joins the town of Boston to the continent. This, though undoubtedly a prudent measure in his situation, was exclaimed against by the Americans, in the most vehement manner, but the general, instead of giving ear to their remonstrances, deprived them of all power of acting against himself, by seizing the provincial powder, ammunition, and

other military stores, at Cambridge and Charlestown. This excited such indignation, that it was with the utmost difficulty the people could be restrained from marching to Boston, and attacking the troops. Even in the town itself, the company of cadets, that used to attend the governor, disbanded themselves, and returned the standard he had presented them with, on his accession to the government. This was occasioned by his having deprived the celebrated John Hancock (afterwards President of Congress) of his commission of colonel of the cadets. A similar instance happened of a provincial colonel having accepted a seat in the new council, upon which twenty-four officers resigned their commissions in one day.

In the meantime a meeting was held of the principal inhabitants of the towns adjacent to Boston; the purport of which was, publicly to renounce all obedience to the late acts of parliament, and to enter into an engagement to indemnify such as should be prosecuted on that account; the members of the new council were declared violaters of the rights of their country: all ranks and degrees were exhorted to learn the use of arms; and receivers of the public revenue were ordered not to deliver it into the treasury, but to retain it in their own hands until the constitution should be restored, or a provincial congress dispose of it otherwise.

A remonstrance against the fortifications at Boston Neck was next prepared, in which however they still declared their unwillingness to proceed to hostilities; asserting, as usual, their determination not to submit to the acts of parliament they had already so

much complained of. The governor, to restore tranquility if possible, called a general assembly; but so many of the council had resigned their places, that he was induced to countermand its sitting by proclamation.

This measure, however, was deemed illegal; the assembly met at Salem; and after waiting a day for the governor, voted themselves into a provincial congress, of which John Hancock was chosen president. A committee was instantly appointed, who waited on the governor concerning the fortifications at Boston Neck; but nothing of consequence took place, both parties criminating each other.

The winter was now coming on and the governor, to avoid quartering the soldiers on the inhabitants, proposed to erect barracks for them; but the select-men of Boston compelled them to desist. Carpenters were sent for to New York, but they were refused: and it was with great difficulty that he could procure winter lodgings for his troops. Nor was it with less difficulty that he procured clothes; as the merchants of New York told him, "that they would never supply any article for the benefit of men sent as enemies to their country." This disposition prevailing universally throughout the continent, was highly gratifying to congress.

It was now generally expected that the ensuing spring would be the season of commencing hostilities, and the most indefatigable diligence was used by the colonies to be fully prepared against such a formidable enemy. Lists of all the fencible men were made out in each colony, and especially of those who had served in the former war; of whom they had the

satisfaction to find two-thirds were still alive, and able to bear arms. Magazines of arms were collected and money was provided for the payment of troops.

In vain the governors of the different provinces endeavoured to put a stop to these proceedings by their proclamations; the Rubicon was passed, the fatal period was now arrived; and the more the servants of government attempted to repress the spirit of the Americans, the more violent were their exertions.

At this time the inhabitants of Boston were reduced to great distress. The British troops (now commonly called the enemy,) were in absolute possession of it, the inhabitants were kept as prisoners, and might be made accountable for the conduct of the whole colonies; various were the means contrived to relieve the latter from their disagreeable situation. It was proposed to remove the inhabitants altogether; but this was impracticable without the governor's consent: others recommended burning the town, after valuing the houses, and indemnifying the proprietors: but this was found equally impracticable; it was at last resolved to wait for some favourable opportunity, as the garrison was not very numerous, and not being supplied with necessaries by the inhabitants, might soon be obliged to leave the place.

The friends of the British government attempted to do something in opposition to the voice of the people; but after a few ineffectual meetings and resolutions, they were utterly silenced and obliged to yield to superior numbers. Matters had now proceeded so far, that the Americans, without further ceremony, seized

on the military stores belonging to government. This first commenced at Newport, in Rhode-Island, where the inhabitants carried off forty pieces of cannon, appointed for the protection of the place; and on being asked the reason of this proceeding, replied, "that the people had seized them, lest they should be made use of against themselves;" after this the assembly met and resolved that ammunition and warlike stores should be purchased with the public money.

New-Hampshire followed the example of Rhode-Island, and seized a small fort for the sake of the powder and military stores it contained. In Pennsylvania, a convention was held which expressed an earnest desire of reconciliation with the mother country; though at the same time, in the strongest manner, declaring, that they were resolved to take up arms in defence of their just rights, and defend to the last, their opposition to the late acts of parliament; and the people were exhorted to apply themselves with the greatest diligence to the prosecution of such manufactures, as were necessary for their defence and subsistence; as salt saltpeter, gunpowder, steel, &c. This was the universal voice of the colonies, New York only excepted. The assembly of that province, as yet ignorant of the fate of their last remonstrance, refused to concur with the other colonies in their determination, to throw off the British yoke: their attachment nevertheless very faint, and by the event, it appeared, that a perseverance of the measures which the ministry had adopted, was sufficient to unite them to the rest.

In the beginning of February the provincial congress met at Cambridge, and as no friends to Britain could now find admittance into that assembly, the only consideration was to make proper preparations for war. Expertness in military discipline was earnestly recommended, and several military institutions established: among which that of the minute-men was most remarkable. These were chosen from the most active and expert among the militia; and their business was to keep themselves in constant readiness at the call of their officers: from which perpetual diligence they derived their appellation.

It was now thought that a very slight occasion would bring on hostilities, for both parties were so much exasperated by a long course of reproaches, and literary warfare, that they were filled with the utmost inveteracy against each other.

On the twenty-sixth of February 1775, general Gage, having been informed that a number of field pieces had been brought up to Salem, despatched a party to seize them. The road was obstructed

TO OUR PATRONS.—Seventy-five cents being due from each subscriber on the receipt of the 1st. number of the COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.—Some 18 or 20 have paid us, for which they have our thanks. Those indebted will, we hope, make immediate payment, as 18 or 20 punctual subscribers will not justify the continuance of a work, having the promised patronage of 300; therefore, if payment is not made by those indebted, before the completion of the first six months (26 Nos.) the publication of this work will be discontinued.